

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MC-02

AID-05 ACDA-05 OMB-01 IGA-01 /076 W

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R 051152Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3491

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 2616

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS MOPS MILI SO ET US

SUBJECT: CHMAAG MEETING WITH MOD, MARCH 4, 1975

DURING SUBJECT MEETING, WHICH WAS A TOUR D'HORIZON OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE SUBJECTS, THREE ITEMS OF HIGH SIGNIFICANCE WERE DISCUSSED AS FOLLOWS:

A) EMERGENCY AMMUNITION REQUEST - THE MOD ASKED WHAT THE STATUS OF THIS REQUEST WAS. HE STATED THAT THE RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST "WILL AFFECT ALL OUR RELATIONS WITH WASHINGTON." HE STATED THAT HE AND THE MOFA WERE "JITTERY" OVER THE SUBJECT AND THAT THE "DIRG" ASKED ABOUT THE REQUEST EVERY DAY. CHMAAG REPLIED THAT HE WAS SURE THAT THE REQUEST WAS BEING DISCUSSED AT HIGH LEVELS AS REPORTED IN THE MEDIA, BUT THAT HE HAD NO OTHER INFORMATION ON ITS STATUS. THE MOD ASKED THAT HIS CONCERN OVER THE LACK OF RESPONSE TO DATE BE RELAYED TO WASHINGTON.

B) ARMED FORCES REACTION TO LAND REFORM - THE MOD STATED THAT SECRET

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IN A MEETING WITH THE "DIRG" LATE ON MARCH 3 HE AND OTHER MINIS-

TERS WERE TOLD THAT LAND REFORM WOULD BE ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 4 AND THAT THE MININTERIOR AND MOD WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING LAW AND ORDER DURING ITS IMPLEMENTATION. THE MOD SAID HE REPLIED THAT HE COULD GIVE NO ASSURANCES THAT THE ARMED FORCES COULD BE DEPENDENT ON IN SUCH A ROLE BECAUSE THEY, LIKE THE POLICE AND TERRITORIAL ARMY, HAD A HIGH CONTENT OF LANDOWNERS. THE MOD SAID HE LATER POLLED HIS GENERALS (GIZAW, GETACHEW AND TAYE) AND EACH SAID THAT THE ROLE THE ARMED FORCES WOULD PLAY IN LAND REFORM CONFRONTATIONS WAS COMPLETELY UNPREDICTABLE AT THIS TIME.

C) SOMALI THREAT - THE MOD SAID HE FELT THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SOMALIS ATTACKING HAD INCREASED AND THAT THERE WERE SOME INDICATORS (SOMALIS CHECKING FUEL STATUS, SOME INCREASE IN SOMALI BORDER ACTIVITY) TO SUPPORT THIS. HE SAID HE BASED HIS FEELINGS PRIMARILY ON THE FACT THAT SOMALIA HAD IN THE PAST BEEN AWAITING PROGRESSIVE DISINTEGRATION OF THE COUNTRY THROUGH ITS REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS AND MAY NOW FEEL THAT THE LAND REFORM ANNOUNCEMENT HAS MOVED ETHIOPIA FURTHER IN THIS DIRECTION, MAKING THE UPCOMING PERIOD MORE PROPITIOUS FOR ATTACK. (COMMENT: MOD MAY HAVE MADE THIS POINT TO BOLSTER THE CASE FOR THE EMERGENCY AMMUNITION REQUEST.)

WYMAN

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NNN

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